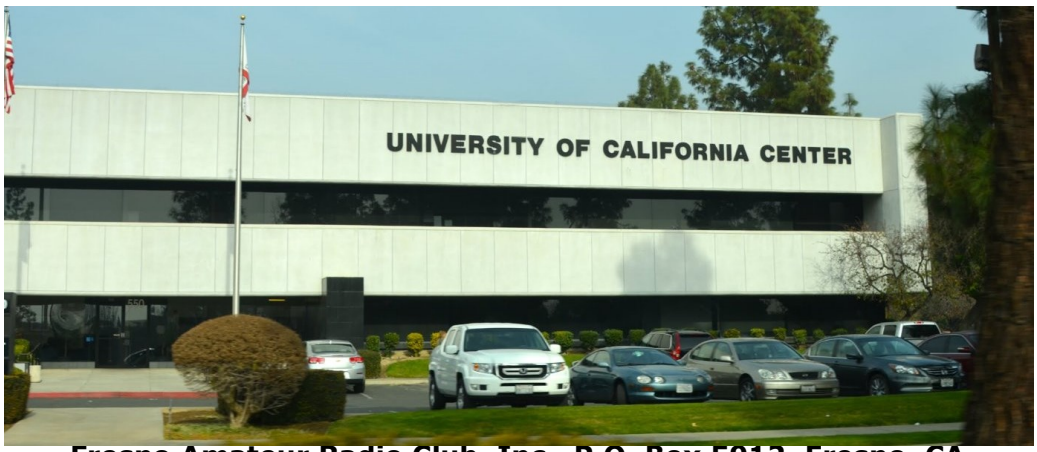
SKIP

FRESNO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

A Fresno Amateur Radio Club Newsletter January, 2016 Volume 78, Issue 1

New meeting location for 2016! East of Hwy. 41 on Shaw!
7 P.M. on the second Friday of the month, Jan. 8th for the first meeting of the new year at the University of California Center at 550 E. Shaw.

The map view shows the center in relation to the 41 freeway. In general the building has better lighting in the front near the entrance, and the parking lot is "security patrolled". Note: the entrance is directly across from the Fashion Fair entrance, on the north side of Shaw. We are meeting in the conference room named "Tulare/Madera".



FARC General Meetings
are held the 2nd Friday of each month, 7 p.m. at the University of California Center on Shaw Ave. unless otherwise noted. Stay tuned in for new announcements.

2016 FARC BOARD MEETING DATES
1st Tuesday of each month this month at WB6VRJ's QTH.

FARC Nets
Morning Drive Time Net:
Weekday mornings-7:30—8:00 a.m.
W6TO/R 146.940

Tech Net:
Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm
W6TO/R 146.940

FARC Net:
Sundays @ 7:00 pm
W6TO/R 146.940

Fresno Amateur Radio Club, Inc. P.O. Box 5912, Fresno. CA 93755-5912

FARC

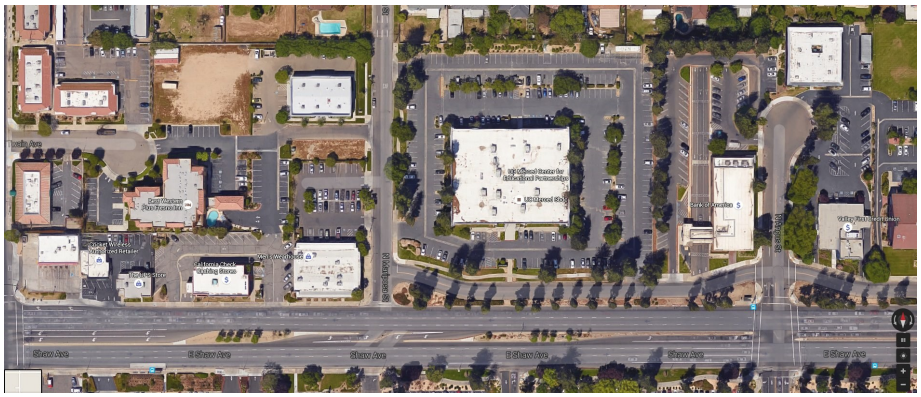
Send your dues check to FARC, PO Box 5912, Fresno 93755-5912
Refer questions to Joe/WA6FFJ 288-2202 Board meeting on Jan.5, Tuesday night at Stu's place.

Dave, W6TE, will be our January speaker at the FARC meeting. He is looking forward to informing all Hams concerning an exciting project from AMSAT.
The AMSAT Phase IV mission is on a very fast track with a launch at the end of 2016 or early 2017 and has capabilities that everyone will want to be informed about.

He is going to be giving a AMSAT Phase IV presentation at the ARRL Quartzfest 2016 in late January. This satellite has the capabilities to affect all hams and especially those involved in ARES/RACES Communications..... as well as those of us who have legacy microwave equipment on the 5.7 and 10 GHz bands.

NOTES FROM THE 2015 PREXY:
HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!!
Here's hoping that Christmas-and Santa- brought you all the ham things you wanted-that new 165 foot tower, the new CW keyer, the Fast Scan TV and all the other goodies.
I was not in town to send my Christmas greetings so I send them now.
Our club is looking to see new horizons this year. We have a new meeting place, and while I have not yet seen it, I am sure it will be missing the sounds of those gutter balls and falling pins, and be looking great. Yeah, we will have to provide our own coffee and cups and I am sure that will work jes' fine.
The Christmas dinner was a great success, thanks to all the really wonderful gals and guys that helped so much and made it a real success. I am also happy to announce we have another Lion in our midst, and I look forward to seeing him at our club meetings.
The Board promises me that they will soon be meeting and announcing the officers and directors for the coming year-well, this is being written in 2015, so their announcement is for 2016 -gosh, now I have to start practicing writing that year.

Yeah, some of us old-timers still write. In fact, this chap still uses a pen! I will regale you with tales of TSA and the pen later.
Yeah, the bands have been up and down this month of December, but here's a wish for the new year-may all the bands be wide open, may there be no QRM or QRN, and may everyone's signal be 599.
Stuart WB6VRJ



Arial view of new meeting location!
550 E. Shaw, Tulare/Madera room

2016 FARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, with corrections to come after the Jan. board meeting

FARC Officers and Board members:

Ken Holden, WA6OIB	wa6oib@w6to.com	(559) 323-6753	12/2016
Joe Cardoza, WA6FFJ	wa6ffj@w6to.com	(599) 455-1071	12/2016
Ron Hunt, N6MTS	n6mts@w6to.com	(559) 289-8514	12/2016

Web master
Aaron Lusk, K6USY k6usy@w6to.com (559) 301-1022

Skip Editor
John Morrice, K6MI k6mi@pacbell.net (559) 275-7373

Ron, N6MTS

Breakfast on Saturdays at Jeb's Blueberry Café located at Blackstone and Dakota, starting at 7 A.M.. Join the DX'ers and all the area hams for breakfast

Also Breakfast every Tuesday at 8 A.M. at *Denny's* near Shaw and West. Closed Jan. 11.

The Quarter Century Wireless Association Lunch is held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at also at Jeb's Blueberry Cafe on Blackstone at 11:30 to 1 P.M..

The Thursday ham radio lunch get-together meeting location is:
Jeb's Blueberry Hill
3851 North Blackstone Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726

Send Skip items to Skip editor John Morrice, K6MI at: k6mi@pacbell.net

You can download this and past Skip issues under the Document Archive menu by visiting **w6to.com**.

Be a net control op! Contact Joe, WA6FFJ at: nailbender@unwiredbb.com.

Support our advertisers in SKIP. They support us not only in revenue for the club but they also allow us space on the counters and shelves for copies of SKIP and other club announcements.

Event-Date

Jan. 8 2016 FARC meeting at 7 P.M. New Location!

T Hunt on Jan. 9, Sat. morning at 10 A.M.

January VHF Contest Jan. 30-31

Feb. FARC meeting Feb. 12 7 P.M.

San Joaquin Valley Nets:
The Noontime net meets on 7.268.5 MHz. This net handles a lot of messages.

Daytime Region 6 Traffic Net meets daily at 3:30 pacific time on or near 7.275 MHZ. This one is probably not in operation at this time.

The California Traffic Net meets daily on 3.906 MHZ and 6:00 PM local time.

The Golden Bear Amateur Radio Net meets nightly at 7:00 PM local time on 3.975 MHZ.

Northern California Net (NCN), the Section Traffic Net, meets nightly on 3.533 MHZ at 7 PM Pacific Time.

San Joaquin Net meets Monday-Saturday on 3918khz, at 6 PM Pacific Time.

Western Public Service System (WPSS) meets nightly on 3952khz, roll - at 7:30 PM local Pacific Time.
The Mission Trail Net meets nightly on 3.856 MHZ at 8:00 PM local time.

Northern California Net 2 (NCN2) The slow speed training session of NCN, meets nightly on 3.533 MHZ at 9 PM Pacific Time. Handling traffic on CW is a good way to improve your CW skills.

CWops Tests are held weekly – Every Wednesday at 1300Z, 1900Z, and 0300Z (Thursday). Info and rules at http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html .

Corrections to last months Skip! Our sharp eyed readers are on the lookout for everything. The corrected Skip is in the **w6to.com** archive.
More new prizes at the next meeting! The raffle helps pay for the meeting expenses.

Now collecting 2016 dues. Dues for 2016 are $20, and $5 for additional family members!

Free membership for first year hams!

Fresno ARC Is looking for check-ins for the Morning Drive Time Net.

Join Ben, WB6GBS, Duane, KI6QEL, and Joe, WA6FFJ, net control operators, for an interesting way to start the day. Visit http://w6to.com for further information.

The Central Valley T-hunters

T-Hunt – Saturday 01.09.2016 @ 10:00 AM local, Letterman Park, Clovis, arrive early to check in.

Fox(s) will be Ron N6MTS and Ken WA6OIB. This will be a multiple transmitter hunt lasting 3 to 4 hours or 3:00 PM, whichever comes first.

This hunt will be different than all previous hunts.

For more information email info@k6arp.org or call 559-492-7675.

Rob, AE6GE
Hunt master

ARRL Section Manager for the SJV Section, Dan, AE6SX. Dan's SJV news is found at arrl.org

Got Ham Radio?

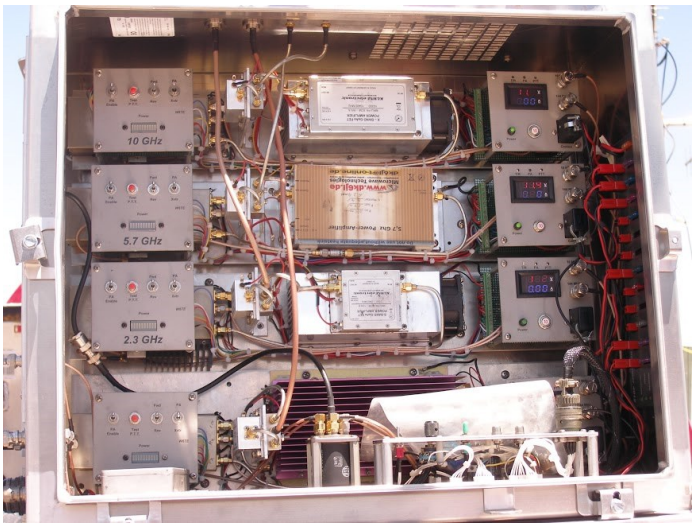
Check out Glenn's info later in this issue!

Thanks to Duane, KI6QEL, and Jim, W6NIF, for providing the photographs included in SKIP.

The monthly door prize drawing was won at the Dec. club meeting.
$50 was won by Jim, W6NIF. Door prizes will start again at the next meeting.
Must be present to win.

Local Amateur Radio Repeaters

Organization	*Call Sign*	*Frequency*	*Offset*	*PL*
CARP	K6ARP	147.675	-	123.0
CARP	N6JXL	224.380	-	141.3
CARP	K6ARP	444.725	+	141.3
CARP	NI6M	440.350	+	141.3
CONDOR	WB6BRU	224.900	-	156.7
FARC	W6TO	146.940	-	141.3
FARC	W6TO	223.940	-	141.3
FARC	W6TO	444.200	+	141.3
BRA	W6FSC	145.230	-	141.3
BRA	W6FSC	443.450	+	141.3
KINGS ARC	N6CVC	145.110/444.95	-	100.0
NC9RS	NC9RS	927.6625/902.0125	-	146.2
MADERA ARC	W6WGZ	147.180	+	146.2
MADERA ARC	W6WGZ	441.175	+	146.2
QCWA	WQ6CWA	146.850	-	141.3
QCWA	WQ6CWA	443.250	+	107.2
RACES	N6HEW	147.150	+	141.3
SJVARS	KE6JZ	146.820	-	141.3
TURLOCK ARC	W6BXN	147.030	+	100.0
W6NIF	W6NIF	444.100	+	100.0
WINSystem	K6JSI	146.790	-	100.0
WINSystem	K6JSI	444.250	+	100.0
CVRC	N6IB	443.950	+	141.3
CVRC	N6IB	442.350	+	141.3
CVRC	N6VQL	147.315	+	141.3
Meadow Lakes	WA6OIB	146.61	-	141.3



This transverter box built by Dave, W6TE, our January speaker at the FARC meeting will be in use for the January VHF contest on Jan. 30-31.

Frequencies covered are 900mc., 1.2g, 2.3g, 3.5g, 5.7g, and 10g. 24g and the lower vhf bands are covered in separate radios.

Ten meter net, CW and Phone, every Wednesday
7 P.M. for CW at 28.140
8 P.M. for SSB at 28.445

This is a local net, the cw part run by KF6ZXO, and the SSB part by Doyle, W6OEZ. Have fun checking in on one or both modes.

Joe, WA6FFJ, our net control operator for the W6TO nets.

Anniversaries:

1/19 Joan and Perry K6XJ

1/25 Glenita KB6PKN and Jack WY6B

Birthdays

01/09 Dave W6TE
01/19 Glen N6HEW
01/25 AG6IS Scott
01/27 AG6JI Stephen

THE DX CORNER

By Charles McConnell W6DPD

January 2016

"DX is the one you want but you don't have. That is the way it has always been, that is the way it will always be." Of the most recent DXpeditions, "If you worked it, it was the best DXpedition ever. If you missed it, it was probably not so good." "And so it goes."

All things are relative, some more than others. Thanks Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD SK.

If you want help with DX, you can contact the local members of the Central California DX Club for some assistance. Charles W6DPD 431-2038, or Perry K6XJ 299-2802, can give you advice. The big thing about finding DX is to tune the bands.

The DX Breakfast is every Saturday at Jeb's Blueberry Hill Café, 3851 N. Blackstone Ave in Fresno. This group gathers about 06:30 AM. All are welcome.

Check out www.spaceweather.com and www.solarham.net for information on the solar cycle. The higher the solar flux and the lower the A and K Indices, the better the band conditions.

The address of the Sixth District QSL Bureau is P. O. Box 970, Fairfax CA 94978-0970. You can send up to 10 address labels and $0.80 for each envelope to the address above. They will put 1 unit of First Class postage on the envelope. You can contribute $10 or $20 online using Paypal. If you work DX, you should have envelopes at the bureau so you can get your cards. You may be able to check your status at the bureau at http://www.qslbureau.org/

The ARRL Outgoing QSL Service has raised the rates for sending ARRL members QSL cards to foreign countries. The new rate is $2 for up to 10 cards in one envelope, $3 for 11 to 20 cards in one envelope and 75 cents per ounce for more than 20 cards.

Postage rates around the world are constantly changing. To see current rates go to **http:// www.qsl.net/w9ol/IRC_Chart.htm** where you can find the current postal rates for most of the countries of the world. IRCs can no longer be ordered online from the US Post Office. To check on foreign postage, you can go to http://www.k4hb.com/postage.html. To learn about addressing envelopes to everywhere in the world, go to http://www.columbia.edu/~fdc/postal/ for a discussion and examples. U.S. Postage will be increased soon. Overseas postage will be $1.20; domestic postage will remain $0.49 for 1 ounce. Additional ounce for domestic mail will be $0.22. Postcards will be $0.35.

If you don't get a DX Bulletin and you belong to ARRL, you should register on the members only web page and check the box for the ARRL DX Bulletin. This one is emailed each Thursday. Or you can go to the ARRL web page in the News/ Bulletin section and view the bulletins there. You can also read the OPDX Bulletin or the 425 DX Bulletin on the web. Search OP DX Bulletin or 425 DX Bulletin to get the URL. You can subscribe to the Daily DX, Weekly DX or QRZ DX too. These bulletins will keep you informed of DX operations and QSL information.

Continued from the last page

The following operations are scheduled:
Djibouti J28JV soon for at least a year, maybe 2
Ascension Island ZD8D maybe an October 2011 start
Angola D2CQ February 2010 for a few years
Gabon TR8CA September 15 for 4 years
Rotuma Island 3D2AG/R December 20, 2015 to January 15, 2016
Senegal 6W7SK January 3 to January 31, 2016
New Zealand Sub Antarctic Islands ZL9A January 7 to January 11, 2016
North Korea P5 January or February 2016 SSB only. We can hope!!
Palmyra Island KH5 January 11 to January 26, 2016
South Sandwich VP8STI January 17 to January 27, 2016
Fernando de Noronha PY0F January 19 to January 26, 2016
South Georgia VP8SGI February 1 to February 11, 2016
Tonga A35 February 17 to February 28. 2016
Guinea 3XY1T February 18 to March 4, 2016
Tonga A3 February 17 to February 28, 2016
Myanmar XZ February 15 to March 16, 2016 OR April 15 to May 15, 2016
Cocos Keeling Island VK9CK March 15 to March 26, 2016
Palestine E44Y March 2016 has been **Canceled!!**
Juan de Nova March 29 to April 11, 2016
Scarborough Reef March 6 to April 20, 2016
Heard Island VK0EK March 6 to April 20, 2016
St. Paul Island CY9 August 19 to August 29, 2016
Cocos Keeling, VK9C September 20 to October 4, 2016

Charles, W6DPD

Watch the DX Bulletins for up to date information. As the time for the operation is at hand, watch the DX Summit (www.newdxsummit.fi) for listings. There are a number of state QSO parties each year. Check the contest corral in QST or the ARRL web page. State QSO parties are a good place to collect states for your Worked All States award. ARRL Log Book of the World now supports the Worked All States Award and the WPX Award.

Good luck, tune the dial, and listen.

President Stu WB6VRJ handing out awards at the Christmas dinner, in appreciation for all the different club members who do so much all year long.

Prize table from dinner below

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS
IN FRESNO

Exams given for
TECHNICIAN, GENERAL, and AMATUER EXTRA

Sponsored By the
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2016

Exams for all Amateur license classes will be conducted on the following dates in Fresno California. All exams are given on Saturday and begin at 9:30 AM.

February 13 **May 14** **August 13** **November 12**

LOCATION: ....Salvation Army Fresno Citadel, 1854 Fulton Street, Fresno CA 93721

DIRECTIONS: From North or South of Fresno, Take Highway 99 to Highway 180 east. Go east on 180 to Fulton Street off ramp. Turn right on Fulton Street. Go south on Fulton across Divisidero to Sacramento Ave. Turn left on Sacramento Ave and park. You have arrived.

Theory exams are multiple choice.

First Class mail is used to send paperwork to ARRL, who sends data to FCC via electronic mail, thus assuring the fastest possible service on new licenses, which typically are posted to the FCC database by the end of the second week following the exam.

BRING. Two ID's, one with photo. Taxpayer ID Number (Social Security Number), or FCC Registration Number (**preferred**). Fee **$15.00** per test session. Bring exact change. **Original** and **copy** of **Amateur License**. Talk in on 146.94 repeater.

Walk in's only, no pre-registration.

More Info?? Contact Charles, (559) 431-2038

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EC Report for December 2015

Hi All,

This month's schedule was a rather relaxing one in a hectic season: 4 Monday Night EmComm Nets, 1 EmComm l meeting, 1 EmComm and Coffee, and a public service event.

Radio Workshop

We are still holding Radio Workshops to assist our members and nonmembers alike solve problems and get assistance with anything Amateur Radio related.
We will not have a workshop until after the holidays February 06, 2016 at 10:00 AM.

EmComm Website

We are now posting events and meetings on the calendar as well as posting articles on the home page. Check us out at fcemcomm.org.

Public Service Calendar 2015

Most of you know we help CARP doing Public Service events. We use them for training; they help keep us sharp handling traffic and working under a net condition. I am including the calendar of events as it is now.

2015 Public Service Events:

- February 20 – The Rotary Chocolate Run

March 5 – Blossom Trail 10K

If interested in volunteering at any of the above events, contact Rob Mavis **(ae6ge@k6arp.org)**

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Newbee Net or IntroNet

Lew Roberts (KI6YWX) will be starting a new net Tuesday January 05, 2016, the time will be 19:30 and the frequency will be 147.15 MHZ with a PL of 141.3. The net be held every Tuesday unless otherwise noted. This is designed for the new Ham. He will call it **The IntroNet.** He and at least two others will be there to answer questions and give advice to the new Ham as well as some of us more seasoned ones that are having problems. He will try to answer your questions at the time asked, but if he isn't able he will re-search and get back to you.

Continued on the next page

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Build Project

"Easy Digi Kit" interface project that Lew Roberts (KI6YWX) will be conducting has now closed registration. We now have 26 interested and parts are on order. Lew will get the kits together and at that point will set a project building date. Thanks for your interest.

Net Control Staff Needed

We are looking for volunteers to take a turn as net control on Monday nights. This is not a difficult task. We will provide the preamble and net roster.

This is a great way to enhance your skills running a net for emergency situations. If you are interested, please contact Gary (KI6OYW) at 559-269-1340 or email g_greenberg@att.net

The Salvation Army Toy & Food Distribution

Friday December 18th ARES & SATERN members assisted The Salvation Army with their annual food and toy distribution to the less fortunate. Over a 1,000 families received assistance so that the children would have toys and food on the table Christmas morning.

Our duties were to keep applicants in the correct line; there were 4 time slots that divided up the crowds into manageable groups. We also controlled vehicle traffic; no one got ran over.

I would like to thank the following Hams for their help;
Richard (KE6SHL), Dwaine (KG6SYA), Gary (KI6OYW), Joe (WA6FFJ), Steve (AG6JI), Randy (KI6NHT), Karl (W6TUI), Ben (WB6GBS), Robert (KJ6HFW), Chris (KE6OUG), Bill (KK6ESJ) and of course Dan (AE6SX) who put the whole operation together.

Our Calendar

Don't forget the **Monday Night EmComm Net** and the **Tuesday Intro Net** at 1930 hr. on the 147.15 MHz Pl 141.3. We have some good information and camaraderie. On the third Friday of the month there is the **EmComm Coffee** at YFC on Cedar south of Ashlan in Granite Park at 07:00hr.

And last but not least the EmComm Meetings are held on the Fourth Thursday of month. The next meeting will be held January 28th at 1900 hr. at the Salvation Army Citadel at 1854 Fulton St., Fresno.

Best of 73's GLEN CAINE (N6HEW) Fresno County RACES Officer
Fresno County ARES EC 559-999-7590 N6HEW2@gmail.com

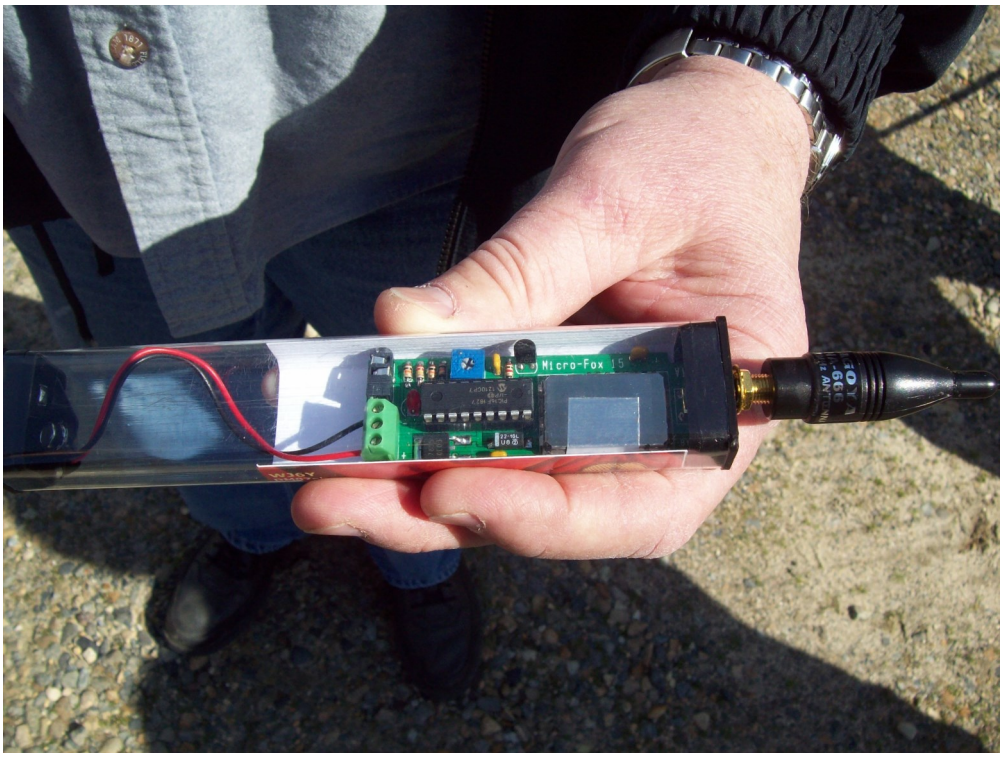
Next Fox Hunt:
Saturday January 9, 2016
Start time – 10:00 AM

Fox – Ron N6MTS and Ken WA6OIB Type of hunt – Mileage and possibly time also

Ron, N6MTS, ready to serve up some hidden transmitters.

Start location – Letterman Park, Clovis

Additional details from Ron N6MTS:



- The hunt will be at least 3 – 4 hours, with the end declared at 3PM (if not all hunters have finished).
- The hunt will involve multiple transmitters.
- The successful winner is determined by the hunter finding ALL of the transmitters and the shortest route to them.
- This hunt will definitely be different that any before it.
- Anything goes, and it will be on public property . . . .

Pictures from W6NIF showing the 2015 Christmas dinner.

President Stu welcomed everyone, certificates and awards were given out, and a raffle was held. Everyone won at least one prize!

A wonderful time was had by all! Special thanks goes to the committee that organized this all, Gywnne Holden, Nora Erbe, Lisa Hunt, Roz Tampone and Mary Morrice.

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Your add or card here!

Talk to Ron, N6MTS, about the yearly fee!

November 21, 2015 Transmitter Hunt Recap

December 7, 2015 K6KTP
by: Marty K6KTP

First order of business I want to thank all who participated…we had fun and I hope you all did to. My cohort on the hunt was Dave NQ6S. Lots of help there.

Hunt Info

We located the transmitters (4) on the mountain area around the CARP repeater site:

- 1st location was approx 1/8 mile away using 7 watts into a pair of horizontal loops. That was the main T heard at start point.
- 2nd location was actually on the property owned by the repeater site owner put in with his permission. My bad because it was really private property and the hunters had no way of knowing that. That unit was approx 3 watts into a rotating 3 element quad that quit rotating after a few hours. Further work required here on that.
- 3rd location was the school up near the top of 4 lanes running a 50mw talking transmitter held to the back-side of a fence support at the left end of sports area in back of school.

4th location was a 15mw transmitter on a sign post up high at a pullout on Auberry Road. That quit after a few hours. After coming home I did some testing and found it would run in excess of 8 hours on a new battery. Another error on my part. Got my wires crossed not having a new battery for the hunt.

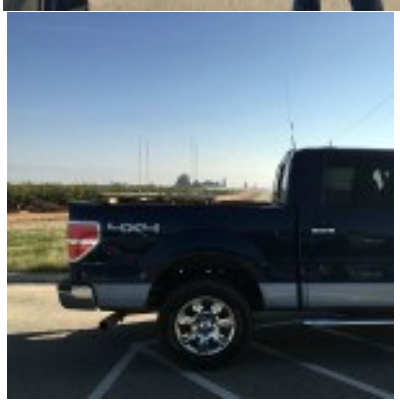
I actually had 6 transmitters with me so I could have solved that if I was aware.

Hunt Results

At approx 12:20 Ron N6MTS and Ken WA6OIB should up at main T and proceeded from there to find the talking unit and the quad on private property. That gave them 3. They won even though…never mind.

1. Next Rick W6KKO and Dennis KI6NVG made it in and had found the talking T before showing up. So they had two. They got to where the " ILLEGAL" T was but decide not to trespass.
2. Rob AE6GE found the talking T but that was it [he had to leave early to teach the FAME Technician Class].

Tom N6MQG started but quit when he discovered some equipment problems.
There you have it…promise to do better next time.
-Marty K6KTP



Our members on the air making contacts! 2015 was an active year, following the Bicentennial event in 2014. Many local hams are on the digital modes, with Chuck, W6DPD, Perry, K6XJ, and Jim, W6NIF making thousands of JT 65 q's. Here are some of the latest contest results!

ARRL 10-Meter Contest

K6AAB, Steve SO Unlimited CW, Low Power 127q 41 mults socre 20,828
100 w to a mini bug catcher mounted on 2nd story apartment balcony. Propagation was mediocre but got better on Sunday.

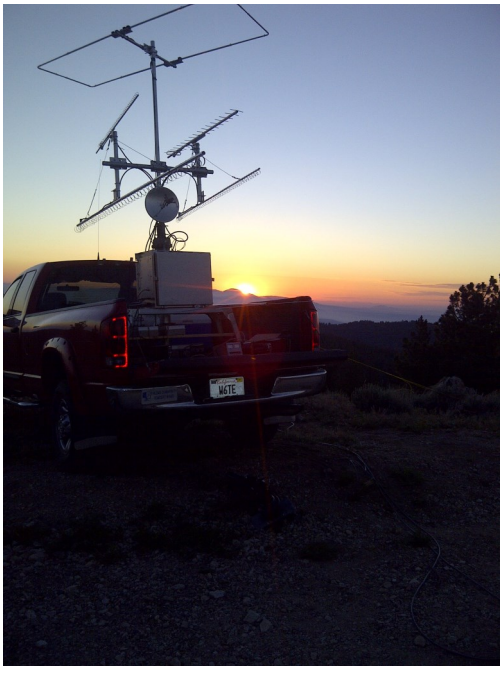
Operator: N2NS Class: SO CW Unlimited HP
Operating Time (hrs): 5 Summary: Band QSOs Mults
10 CW: 210 66 Total: 210 66 Total Score = 55,440
Comments: On for a few minutes Friday evening, but band had already closed, except for a few VK/ZL's. On for ~10 minutes Sat AM before having to leave home. Band agn closed by time I got home. On/off randomly during day Sunday. No EU heard. From here, band seemed limited to USA/VE, plus the Caribbean basin Sun AM, with vy few exceptions. CQ-ed beaming EU/AF/SA some in AM, but just attracted USA and VE3's. (Probably nearly half my Sun AM run QSO's were MI, OH, VE3, MD, and FL.) With one lone exception- V51YJ called. He was LOUD! What a surprise. Chased a few mults Sun PM, but slim pickin's after about 20Z. CQ's beaming OC/AS attracted only USA and a few LU/PY's off the back until last hour, when a whopping two JA's called me. Wkd a total of only 3 JA's all day.

Ten-Meter RTTY Contest

Operator: N2NS Class: Single Op LP Operating Time (hrs): 1:52
Summary: QSOs = 102 State/Prov = 28 Countries = 11 Total Score = 3,978
Comments: Would liked to have spent more time in the chair. Decent activity, considering the less than stellar solar numbers.

Stew Perry Topband Challenge

Operator: N2NS Class: Single Op HP
Operating Time (hrs): 4 Summary: Total: QSOs = 110 Total Score = 327
Comments: Part time, but rough band condx. Only dx wkd: JA, KP2, KH6, XE.
K3/P3, Alpha 9500, N1MM+ logger Sloper (tx), K9AY loop (rx)



The January vhf contest is coming up on Jan. 30-31 in 2016.

Contacts on the vhf uhf simplex frequencies are much appreciated by all those portable or mobile, or at home stations.

Consider getting on and giving out a few contacts!

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Additional Family Member in same household:
Spouse Name_____ Call Sign_____
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Fresno Amateur Radio Club Activities and Events

Meetings on the 2nd Friday of the month

FD on the 4th full weekend in June

Banquet Dinner in December

Club Picnic in summer

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